

Filed for intro on 01/28/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 626
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Portland City
Councilman Thomas Anthony (Tony) Utley.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Portland City Councilman Thomas Anthony (Tony) Utley; and

WHEREAS, City Councilman Utley was a commendable public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable athlete and scholar, he was a graduate of Sumner County High School Class of 1961, where he was a talented member of the Panther Football Team; and

WHEREAS, City Councilman Tony Utley honorably and courageously served in the United States Army's Intelligence Division from 1964 to 1967; and

WHEREAS, City Councilman Thomas Anthony (Tony) Utley served with foresight and acumen as a Bridge Designer for the Tennessee Department of Transportation from 1968 to

HJR0626

01071283

1975; as a Bridge Designer, he had the opportunity to be a part of many landmark projects, including designing the Highway 52 East overpass bridge; and

WHEREAS, through his diligence and dedication, City Councilman Utley earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee in 1974 and a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration from Middle Tennessee State University in 1978; he also received a Plus-45 certification in Archeology from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, he served with distinction as a teacher at Portland High School and Sumner County Vocational Center (SCVC) from 1975 to 1981, and then as Principal of the SCVC for seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, when Sumner County Vocational Center closed, City Councilman Tony Utley accepted the position of Assistant to the Director of Sumner County Schools for Operations; as Assistant to the Director and throughout his exemplary career in education, he earned the respect of his students and his fellow teachers and administrators alike for his dedication, his enthusiasm, and the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, City Councilman Thomas Anthony (Tony) Utley began his illustrious political career in 1976, when he was elected to his first term as a Portland City Councilman; he was elected again in 1997 and re-elected in 2001 and voted Vice Mayor of Portland in 1999; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished illustrator, City Councilman Utley was a published cartoonist and historic illustrator; his books "Doc Hemlock," "CSA," and "Does It Hurt Bad" displayed his brilliant sense of wit and whimsy; and

WHEREAS, working in conjunction with the Highland Rim Historical Society, he assisted in wording and erecting historic markers in the Portland area, especially Civil War markers; he also played a pivotal role in the creation and implementation of Portland's television station Channel 36; and

WHEREAS, City Councilman Tony Utley was a valuable member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mid-Cumberland Archaeology Society, Central State Archaeology Society, and the Masonic Lodge; and

WHEREAS, City Councilman Thomas Anthony (Tony) Utley was a faithful member of the Portland First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, City Councilman Utley was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by a multitude of loving family and friends, including his wife, Marilyn Brown Utley; his children, Sharilyn K. (Neal) Hall and Shawn A. (Leanne) Utley; his sister, Wanda Utley; his two brothers, Lewis Utley and Joe Utley; his two half sisters, Shirley Pirkle and Tessie Sadler; his two half-brothers, Royce Sadler and Clinton Sadler; and his grandchild; and

WHEREAS, City Councilman Tony Utley has left behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the very epitome of the concerned citizen, Portland City Councilman Thomas Anthony (Tony) Utley's life of service and goodwill stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Portland City Councilman Thomas Anthony (Tony) Utley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to his family and community, his distinguished careers in education and government, and the courage and conviction with which he served the citizens of Portland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Portland City Councilman Utley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.